

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11

AGR-20 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /128 W

----- 098343

R 150857 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7405

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ID, BM

SUBJECT: NE WIN VISIT TO INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 6999

SUMMARY: NE WIN'S VISIT TO INDONESIA WAS CORDIAL BUT NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF INDONESIAS, WHO CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED AT BURMESE RELUCTANCE TO BE NUDGED TOWARD ASEAN MEMBERSHIP. BURMESE (WHO WERE RETICENT IN CONTACTS WITH PRESS AND PUBLIC) WERE MOST INTERESTED IN GRILLING PERTAMINA (STATE OIL COMPANY) OFFICIALS ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE FOREIGN OILMEN. END SUMMARY

1. BURMESE PRESIDENT DEPARTED FOR KUALA LUMPUR JUNE 14 AFTER FOUR-
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DAY STATE VISIT TO INDONESIA WHICH DESPITE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE SEEMS TO HAVE PROCURED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SUBSTANCE. INDONESIANS CLEARLY HOPED THAT NEW WIN WOULD BEGIN TO THAW UNDER SPELL OF JAKARTA

HOSPITALITY AND, IN RESPONSE TO GENTLE HINTS, AT LEAST ANNOUNCE INTENTION OF FUTURE ASSOCIATION WITH ASEAN. INSTEAD, ALL THEY GOT WAS AN AMBIGUOUS AND MUCH-QUALIFIED PUBLIC REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE NEED FOR REGIONAL CONSULTATION (REFTEL PARA 2) AND (ACCORDING BURMESE EMBOFF) NOTHING MORE IN PRIVATE. LATTER CONFIRMED THAT SUHARTO AND NE WIN DISCUSSED ASEAN, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT BURMA CANNOT YET BEGIN TO TALK OF ANY COMMITMENT TO JOIN. IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC AT HIS JUNE 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL A DEGREE OF BEMUSED FRUSTRATION AT BURMESE UNRESPONSIVENESS.

2. LOCAL PRESS MADE MUCH OF GOLF-COURSE CONVERSATIONS ON OIL POLICY BETWEEN EW WIN AND PERTAMINA DIRECTOR IBNU SUTOWO, WITH LATTER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BURMESE WERE CONSIDERING SWITCH AWAY FROM POLICY OF STRAIGHT STATE OPERATION TOWARDS DEGREE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, AND WANTED INDONESIAN ADVICE. BURMESE EMBOFF CONFIRMED THAT NE WIN AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE MAUNG MAUNG PUMPED IBNU THOROUGHLY ON LEGAL (AND OTHER TECHNICAL) ASPECTS OF PERTAMINA'S RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN FIRMS, IN ANTICIPATION OF TIME WHEN ONGOING PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN BURMA (ESPECIALLY OFFSHORE) WILL REQUIRE INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS. BURMESE EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT NEW WIN INTENDS TO USE INFORMATION OBTAINED RE INDONESIA'S FAVORABLE EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN OIL FIRMS TO SILENCE OBJECTIONS FROM "LEFTISTS AND OTHERS WHO WANT NO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN BURMESE OIL."

3. MALIK TOLD PRESS THAT INDONESIA WOULD LIKE TO BUY BURMESE RICE THIS YEAR, BUT THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON CROP CONDITIONS IN BURMA AND NOTHING DEFINITE HAD BEEN DECIDED ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH IS FOREMOST IN INDONESIAN MINDS AT THE MOMENT.

4. DESPITE OVERALL CORDIALITY OF VISIT, INDONESIANS (PARTICULARLY PRESS) WERE SOMEWHAT THROWN BY BURMESE RETICENCE AND SUSPICION WHICH WAS MOST EMPHATICALLY NOT LEFT BEHIND IN RANGOON. BURMESE REPORTEDLY SHIED AWAY FROM A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, LEAVING THE INDONESIANS TO ISSUE A BLAND AND NEWSLESS UNILATERAL PRESS STATEMENT. SIMILAR SKITTISHNESS WAS DISPLAYED WHEN THE LOCAL CORRESPONDENT FOR AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPER WHO IS A BURMESE WOMAN MARRIED TO AN INDONESIAN ATTEMPTED TO COVER BURMESE EMBASSY RECEPTION FOR LOCAL BURMESE COMMUNITY, AND WAS TOLD THAT SHE COULD TAKE PICTURES AS

LONG AS SHE DIDN' T PUBLISH THEM. IN SIMILAR VEIN, OUR BURMESE
EMBASSY CONTACT MADE IT CLEAR HE DID NOT WANT TO RECEIVE AN OFFICE
CALL TO DISCUSS THE VISIT.

5. BURMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD PRESS THAT SUHARTO HAD ACCEPTED AN
INVITATION TO PAY RETURN VISIT TO BURMA, BUT DATE NOT SET.

6. PERHAPS BECAUSE THERE WASN' T MUCH ELSE TO REPORT, LOCAL PRESS
FOCUSED ON THE ATTRACTIVE MRS. NE WIN. HIGH POINT WAS HERE LENGTHY
VISIT TO JAKARTA' S CENTRAL MUSEUM WHERE SHE DISPLYAED ENTHUSIASTIC
HISTORICAL EXPERTISE.

GALBRAITH

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